

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health
Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Joan Mongeon

DATE: August 15, 2005

RE: 2003 Inpatient Behavioral Health Utilization

The following is a revised version of the PIP report originally distributed on July 1, 2005. The original report included a programming error that resulted in the exclusion of residents of some Vermont towns from the 2003 caseload. As a result, the figures reported for this group represented an undercount of actual numbers of episodes, patient days, and people served. We apologize for this error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

The Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project has begun data analysis in preparation for the 2003 edition of our annual report on "Inpatient Behavioral Health Care Services Provided to Vermont Residents." This report will include a detailed description of service utilization patterns for the fourteen-year period, 1990-2003. This week's PIP provides three basic measures of inpatient mental health and substance abuse service utilization by Vermont residents during that time period. These measures include the number of episodes of care, the number of patient days, and the unduplicated number of individuals served. This information is provided for Vermont residents who received inpatient mental health and/or substance abuse services in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and neighboring counties of New York.

This report is based on analysis of existing databases provided by the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont State Hospital, and the Brattleboro Retreat (Vermont's only private psychiatric hospital). The data provided by the Department of Health were extracted from Vermont's Hospital Discharge Data Set (a data set available in most states) that includes detailed (but de-identified) information regarding all episodes of hospitalization for Vermont residents that occur in general hospitals and veterans' hospitals in Vermont and surrounding states. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine unduplicated counts of individuals served.

As you will see, there were decreases in all three measures of inpatient behavior health care utilization between calendar years 2002 and 2003. The number of episodes of hospitalization decreased from 5,000 in 2002 to 4,894 in 2003. This reduction in episodes of care followed four

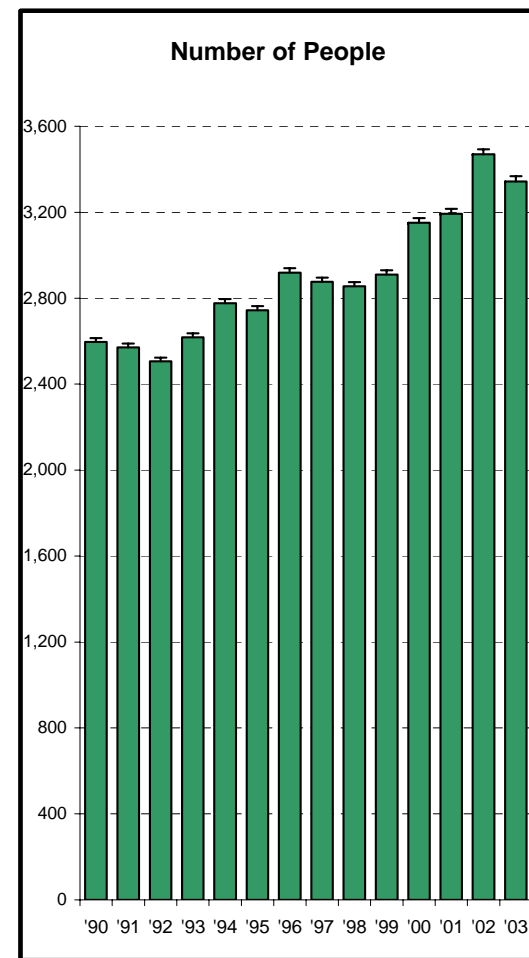
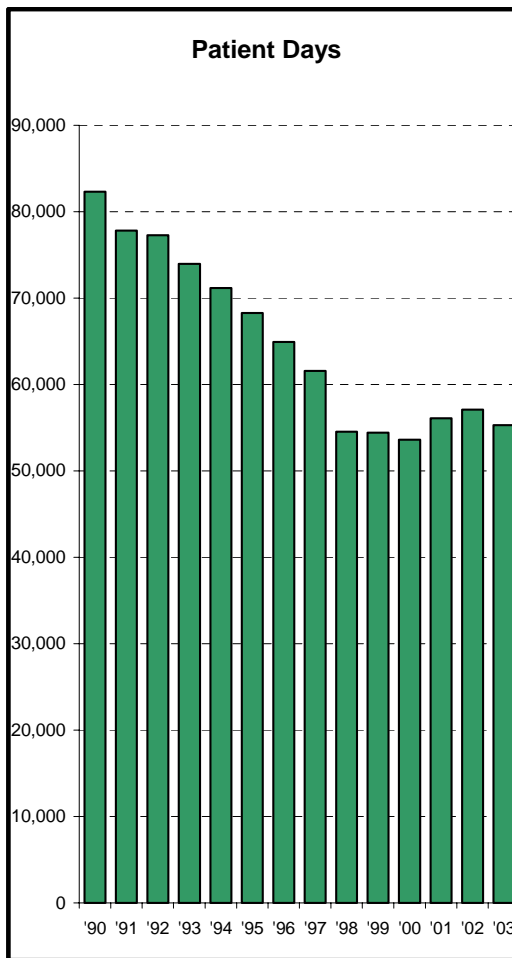
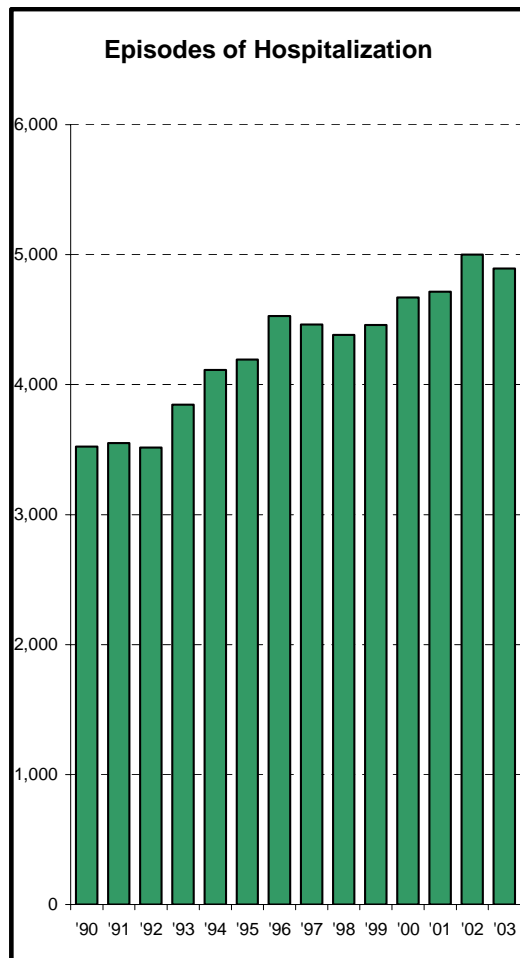
years of continuous growth. The number of patient days decreased from 57,090 in 2002 to 55,311 in 2003. Finally, the unduplicated number of Vermont residents who received inpatient behavior care decreased from 3,469 in 2002 to 3,344 in 2003. This reduction in episodes of care followed five years of continuous growth and broke with a long term pattern of increasing numbers of episodes of care.

It is important to keep in mind that these utilization numbers have not been adjusted for increases in the population of Vermont over the fourteen years covered by this report.

We look forward to your interpretations of the decrease in utilization that occurred in 2003, and your suggestions for future analysis of this very rich data set at pip@vdh.state.vt.us or call 802-241-2638.

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Provided To Vermont Residents During 1990 - 2003



Prepared by the Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

August 2005

Inpatient Behavior Health Care Services

Provided to Vermont Residents During 1990-2003

Year	Episodes of Hospitalization	Patient Days	Number of People
2003	4,894	55,311	3,344 ± 23
2002	5,000	57,090	3,469 ± 24
2001	4,714	56,101	3,193 ± 22
2000	4,671	53,596	3,151 ± 22
1999	4,459	54,418	2,910 ± 20
1998	4,382	54,548	2,855 ± 20
1997	4,464	61,548	2,876 ± 20
1996	4,528	64,919	2,919 ± 20
1995	4,194	68,272	2,744 ± 19
1994	4,114	71,155	2,776 ± 20
1993	3,846	73,955	2,618 ± 18
1992	3,515	77,269	2,506 ± 17
1991	3,550	77,816	2,571 ± 18
1990	3,523	82,315	2,596 ± 18

Information is derived from the Hospital Discharge Data Set maintained by the Vermont Health Department, and database extracts provided by the Brattleboro Retreat and Vermont State Hospital.

The State of Vermont does not have unique client identifiers, for this reason Probabilistic Population Estimation has been used to provide unduplicated counts of people served (with 95% confidence intervals).